MARVEL
CONAN THE KING
$1.25
33
MAR
02480
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DAY OF WRATH

THEN IT IS TIME WE QUIT THIS PLACE.

EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS, MASTER.

DEEP BENEATH THE TEMPLE OF MITRA IN TARANTIA, THE RENEGADE PRIEST CRASSUS, HAS ABDUCTED THE PRINCESS RADEGUND, WHILE PRINCE CONN FOLLOWS IN HOT PURSUIT...

DON KRAAR — STORY
MIKE DOCHERTY — PENCILS
ART NICHOLS — INKS
JANICE CHIANG — LETTERS
GEORGE ROUSSOS — COLORS
LARRY HAMA — EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER — EDITOR IN CHIEF

CONAN THE KING™ Vol. 1, No. 33, March, 1986. (U.S.P.S. 589-810) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published bi-monthly. Copyright ©1985 by Conan Properties, Inc. CONAN THE KING (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Conan Properties, Inc. The advertising and editorial material appearing on pages 5, 7, 10, 12, 37, 39, 42, 44, covers 2, 3, and 4 only, copyright ©1985 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.50 in Canada. Subscription rate $12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO CONAN THE KING, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**

REMEMBER, MY PRINCE, YOUR SISTER HAS BEEN DRUGGED.

RADEGUND!

WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE?

HE WAITS BELOW, MASTER.

RADEGUND!

LET US MAKE HASTE BEFORE THE DAWN BREAKS.

WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT THE PRINCE, MASTER?

IN CROM'S NAME, I SWEAR MY SWORD WILL BE WASHED IN YOUR BLOOD, CRASSUS.

THERE WILL BE OTHER DAYS TO DEAL WITH THE NOBLE PRINCE AND HIS FATHER.

STAND AND FIGHT, TRAITORS!

STOP THEM LONG ENOUGH TO BUY US SOME TIME.

CRASSUS, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME!

RADEGUND!

HA, HA HA...

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, BROTHER DEAR?

PRINCE TAURUS, THERE IS NO TIME TO MAKE A GAME OF IT

COME, MY PRINCE, CRASSUS, WANTS YOU NOW

TAURUS... TAURUS--NO!

QUICKLY, MY PRINCE!

I'M HURRYING AS FAST AS THIS ACCURSED LEG WILL LET ME. IF CRASSUS CAN ONLY RID ME OF THIS IT WILL BE WORTH ANY PRICE.

YOU BOUGHT US THE TIME WE NEEDED, TAURUS. YOU HAVE BEEN AN ADEPT PUPIL.

THERE'S A GREAT DEAL MORE THAT I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME, CRASSUS. GIVE ME THE MEANS TO TOPPLE MY FATHER FROM THE THRONE AND WE'LL BOTH BE WELL SERVED.

IN TIME, TAURUS, ALL IN GOOD TIME.

DID I NOT SERVE YOU WELL, MASTER? TRULY DID I NOT SERVE YOU WELL?

IN THE ROYAL PALACE IN TARANTIA...

I TELL YOU RADEGUND WAS WITHIN MY REACH BEFORE TAURUS APPEARED.

PLEASE, MY PRINCE, YOU MUST NOT BLAME YOURSELF.

TROCERO IS RIGHT. I'M CERTAIN THAT YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD, MY SON. NOW YOU NEED REST.

HOW COULD MY OWN BROTHER BE A TRAITOR?

CONN, YOU MUST STOP PUNISHING YOURSELF. YOU'LL NEED REST IF YOU ARE TO LEAD OUR TROOPS IN THE FIELD.

THIS IS CRASSUS' DOING! IF I EVER GET WITHIN SWORD'S REACH OF HIM AGAIN HIS MAGIC WON'T DO HIM ANY GOOD.

I WAS PRESENT WHEN YOUR BROTHER TURNED ON US.

PERHAPS YOU BLAME YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOUR BROTHER HAS BETRAYED US.

I AM AS MUCH TO BLAME AS ANYONE. TAURUS IS MY SON, TOO.

PRINCE TAURUS IS WHO HE HAS DECIDED TO BE, MY QUEEN.

FORGIVE ME, BUT THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS, MY QUEEN. WE MUST DISTRIBUTE TO THE POPULACE THE FOOD THAT THE CONSPIRATORS WERE HOARDING AND MAKE

AYE, AND OUR RANKS ARE BELOW STRENGTH.

WE MUST RECRUIT EVERY ABLE BODIED MAN AND THEN WE WILL STILL HAVE TOO FEW.

IF WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ABLE BODIED MEN...

...THEN WE WILL HAVE TO FILL OUT THE RANKS WITH ABLE BODIED WOMEN.

ON THE EASTERN BANK OF THE KHOROTAS RIVER, KING CONAN'S ARMY IS CAMPED AND PREPARING TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY...

THE MEN ARE ILL AT EASE WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE RIVER, CONAN. AND WE STILL HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF CONN HAS REACHED TARANTIA.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE PRINCE, PROSPERO.

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO REACH TARANTIA, THEN HE'S THERE. IF IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, IT'S JUST AS LIKELY THAT HE'S THERE.

I CAN ONLY HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, RUFIO.

BUT, WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL THE MORNING OF THE ATTACK.

CONAN!

WHAT NEWS, HAGAN?

WE'VE SECURED OUR RIGHT FLANK, BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO CAPTURE AN ENEMY OFFICER TO QUESTION.

THEN I KNOW IT WASN'T FOR WANT OF TRYING. WE HOLD COUNCIL OF WAR TONIGHT, HAGAN.

BUT, WE MUST CAPTURE AN ENEMY OFFICER BEFORE THEN TO LEARN HOW KING XANTHUS HAS DEPLOYED HIS ARMIES.

AYE, CONAN, AS YOU SAY.

I'LL SEND OUT THE SCOUTS AGAIN.

BY CROM. WHAT'S THAT NOISE? IS THIS SOME MUTINY AFOOT?

BY THE BLOOD OF MITRA, I WON'T LOWER MYSELF TO EDGE THE BLADES OF BARBARIANS AND SAVAGES, WHETHER THEY BE ALLIES OR NOT!

I'LL SINK MY HAMMER INTO YOUR SKULL BEFORE I SERVE A CIMMERIAN CUR!

COME ON YOU BARBARIAN ..

NO MORE WORDS, YOU

AYE, NO MORE WORDS

GIVE ME YOUR BLADE, CIMMERIAN.

STOKE THE FIRE RED AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO PUT A KEEN EDGE ON COLD STEEL.

IS THAT THE TWO HANDED BROAD SWORD.

AYE MY KING

WE'LL ARM OUR MEN WITH BLADES FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THE NAME LESS PITS

ALL THOSE WHO WANT THEIR WEAPONS FIXED FOREVER

IN FACT HE WAS ALWAYS AN BLACKSMITH

DOWNSTREAM ALONG THE KHOROTAS RIVER...

THERE MASTER, THAT WE NEED WILL SHELTER US FOR THE NIGHT.

IT WILL DO IT WILL HAVE TO

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

IT SEEMS WE'RE NOT ALONE

SPITE HIM

AS YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, TELL ME THE TRUTH, YOU AQUILONIAN TRASH.

ANYTHING ANYTHING, BUT I BEG YOU TO SPARE MY WIFE AND CHILD

WHERE ARE THE ARMIES OF ARGOS, OPHIR, AND NEMEDIA?

THEY ARE ALL AROUND US.

THEN I WILL FIND THEM BEFORE THEY FIND US

GUARD THE PRINCESS AND THE PRINCE WELL IN MY ABSENCE

AND IF THE BOY GIVES US ANY TROUBLE ?

IN THAT CASE, KILL HIM HE IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

AND WHAT OF THEM?

NO... NO, I TOLD YOU WHAT Y'U WANTED I KNOW I BEG YOU

NO!

HA, HA, HA...

IN KING CONAN'S CAMP ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF THE KHOROTAS RIVER ..

MY LIEGE, THE ENEMY IS MASSING FOR AN ASSAULT.

IS THERE ANY WORD FROM THE SCOUTS, PROSPERO?

NAY, MY KING. WE STILL DO NOT KNOW HOW THE ENEMY TROOPS ARE POSITIONED

THEN WE MUST CAPTURE ANY ENEMY OFFICER BEFORE DAWN IF WE ARE TO LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR PLAN OF BATTLE.

OTHERWISE, WE WON'T HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE DISPOSITION OF THE ENEMY.

AND IF WE DON'T GET MORE SUPPLIES FOR OUR ARMY, WE'LL BE DOWN TO EATING HORSEFLESH AND HARNESS LEATHER.

AYE, THE SITUATION GROWS WORSE WITH EACH PASSING DAY, MY KING.

WHAT NEWS, RUFIO?

MY LIEGE, THERE IS SOMETHING OUTSIDE THAT YOU SHOULD SEE FOR YOURSELF.

IF MITRA AND CHOM FA LED TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS, THEN AGURA DID. LOOK!

FOOD--WAGON LOADS, ENOUGH TO FEED OUR ARMY FOR WEEKS IF NEED BE. THE ASURANS BOUGHT IT WITH THEIR OWN MONEY

MY KING, WE THE FOLLOWERS OF ASURA HAVE POOLED OUR PERSONAL FORTUNES TO FEED YOUR ARMY, BY THE GRACE OF ASURA

WE BOUGHT THESE SUPPLIES FROM MERCHANTS FROM THE HOWLER KINGDOM WHO HAVE SUPPLIED THE ENEMY AS WELL

YOUR KING WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR SACRIFICE. NOW AT LEAST ONE PROBLEM IS SOLVED. IF ASURA IS DISPOSED TO DEAL WITH THE ENEMY AS WELL, I'LL HAVE NO COMPLAINTS

CONAN--THERE'S
SOMETHING IN YOU
I LIKE TO HEAR!!

IT'S HAGAN
AND
THE SCOUTS!

HERE'S FEAT
AND HERE'S THE
ENEMY LEFT FOR
YOU WENCH!

AN
THE
OF THE
KUTH

AYE

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE TO TALK BEFORE WE FIND WAYS TO MAKE YOU, ARGOSSEAN.

KING CONAN

WHAT DO I HEAR?

GIVE THIS ARGOSSEAN JACKAL TO ME AND MY PUNISHERS

WE HAVE MANY OLD [illegible] GREAT PLEASURE

NO! NO!! I'LL TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT TO KNOW ONLY DON'T LET THESE SAVAGES HAVE ME!

THAT'S ENOUGH

MY COMPLIMENTS TO YOU, HAGAN FOR CAPTURING AN ENEMY OFFICER JUST WHEN WE NEEDED ONE

THE CREDIT BELONGS TO YOUNG [illegible] CONAN. HE CAPTURED THE OFFICER BEHIND ENEMY LINES AND CARRIED HIM BACK.

IF WHAT HAGAN SAYS IS TRUE, THEN WE OWE YOU MUCH, DERYCK.

YOU OWE ME NOTHING.

I WANT NOTHING FROM YOU BUT MY LEAVE TO GO.

DISMISS YOUR MEN HAGAN AND LET THEM GET SOME FOOD AND REST THEY'VE EARNED IT TONIGHT.

AYE WE COULD USE IT.

WHY IS YOUNG DERYCK SO COLD AND ALOOF WHEN I HAVE REASON TO LIKE HIM, HAGAN?

BECAUSE DERYCK IS THE SON OF ROLF, THE AESIR CHIEFTAIN YOU SLEW TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE AESIR AND CIMMERIAN ALLIANCE *

* SEE ISSUE #31.

EAMON, WHAT'S THAT THE MEN ARE SINGING?

IT'S SOMETHING RUFIO COMPOSED. IT'S CALLED 'CONAN AT THE FORGE'

CONAN, THE ARGOSSEAN SAYS THAT KING XANTAUS PLANS TO TEST OUR LINES TOMORROW AND DRIVE US BACK INTO THE RIVER IF HE CAN

THEN WE NEED TO BUY TIME BEFORE WE MAKE OUR ASSAULT IN TWO DAYS.

I'LL CHALLENGE XANTAUS TO SINGLE COMBAT. IF I FALL, REMEMBER THAT CONN IS MY HEIR.

YOU MAY DEPEND ON IT, CONAN.

THAT NIGHT, IN THE ENEMY CAMP OF KING XANTAUS OF ARCOS CONFERS WITH HIS ALLIES, QUEEN LEORA OF OPHIR AND KING TARASCUS OF NEMEDIA.

WHERE IS THAT STYGIAN DOG CRASSUS? WHY HAVEN'T WE BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM IF HE HAS ESCAPED, TARANTIA, XANTAUS?

IF I KNEW, LEORA, I'D BUILD UP THIS FIRE SO I COULD STRETCH HIS CARCASS OVER IT!

LOOK!

THERE IT IS, CRASSUS!

LEORA, YOUR AMAZONS ARE WELL TRAINED, BUT THEY LACK SOME OF THE MORE CULTIVATED GRACES.

THEY KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF YOU CRASSUS, AND DEAL WITH YOU THEY SHALL

YOU MAY BE WORTHLESS AS A SLAVE OR EVEN BUT YOU MAY STILL ENTERTAIN US WHILE WE TORTURE YOU TO DEATH OVER A SLOW LASTING FIRE.

YOU WOULDN'T ACT IN SUCH HASTE IF YOU KNEW WHO I HOLD HOSTAGE

THERE-- LET THE FLAMES REVEAL THEM, CONAN'S CHILDREN, TAURUS AND RADEGUND. THEY ARE IN MY KEEPING.

IF YOU WANT THEM THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO AGREE TO SPARE MY LIFE

AND THEN I WILL NOT REVEAL THEIR WHEREABOUTS UNTIL IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

THEY'RE GOING TO FIGHT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF IT YOUR FATHER IS OUTNUMBERED FOUR TO ONE

AYE, AND THE [illegible] NOT PLAY TO FIGHT WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT UNTIL DAWN TOMORROW FOR THE ASSAULT AS PLANNED

DAWN -- QUEEN TAMARIA AND HER ARMY MARCH FROM THE PARAPET TO THE TARANTA AND THE VAST ARMIES MASS FOR THE FINAL ENGAGEMENT.

ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH AND WAIT HER NOW

I HOPE MOTHER

FATHER IS GOING OUT TO PARLEY WITH KING XANTAUS.

HE'S TRYING TO BUY TIME UNTIL WE CAN JOIN HIM TOMORROW

XANTAUS -- TO THE YOU AND I MUST FIGHT TO FALL

RULES OF PARLEY! I'LL HONOR THEIR FLAG OF TRUCE.

AYE, CONAN IT IS TIME WE SPEAK MAN TO MAN

BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR OFFER, CONAN HEAR MINE - QUARTER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND SAFE CONDUCT INTO EXILE WHAT SAY YOU?

(N) YOU OFFER QUARTER FOR MY ARMY

DON'T BE ABSURD

NAY CONAN YOU CAN'T BAIT ME INTO SINGLE COMBAT WHEN MY FORCES OUTNUMBER YOURS ALMOST FIFTY TO ONE. WHY MY SOLDIERS

SOLDIERS?! I THOUGHT THE SUN HAD DRAWN MAGGOTS

RUFIO, I NAME YOU AMBASSADOR TO ARGOS.

IT'S TIME YOU KNOW THAT I HOLD YOUR CHILDREN HOSTAGE. YOU WOULD DO WELL TO SET THEIR RANSOM, CONAN, NOW WHILE I M DISPOSED TO LISTEN.

THEN WHERE ARE THEY XANTAUS? IF YOU REALLY HAD THEM YOU WOULDN'T HESITATE TO SHOW THEM.

FOR THE LAST TIME WILL YOU RANSOM THEM?

TALK TO MY AMBASSADOR!

HERE--THAT'S ALL THE RANSOM YOU'LL EVER GET!

RUFIO, REMIND ME TO RAISE YOU TO THE NOBILITY.

OH, NO, YOUR MAJESTY, THEN I MIGHT TURN IN TO A JACKASS LIKE KING XANTAUS.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO FIGHT A DEFENSIVE ACTION HOLDING THE PORT ON UNTIL DAWN WHEN CONN SHOULD LEAD THE CITY GARRISON OUT TO JOIN US.

THEN SO IT WE SHALL

CONAN ..

ZELATA .

AYE IT IS ME GREAT KING I HAVE RETURNED TO CAST A SPELL TO BUY YOU THE TIME YOU NEED.

LOOK TO THE HEAVENS AND SEE WHAT I SEE THERE THE STORM GODS HEAVEN RAIN BLOW THE ENEMYS ADVANCE

TO ARMS!

MEN OF NEWDIA
[illegible]
[illegible]
THE RACHEL TAN RIVER.

ALLIANCE!

CHARGE!

STEADY, STEADY,
MY BRAVE VIKINGS.
STAY YOUR BOWS!

THE SKY IS OPENING UP...

AT THIS RATE THE FIELD WILL BE A SEA OF MUD BEFORE THEY CAN CROSS IT.

THE NEMEDIANS ARE W THIN RANGE, GENERAL

WAIT...

NOW!

ACCH...

AGHH..

UGGH...

FROM THE RAMPARTS OF THARANTIA, QUEEN ZENOBIA AND PRINCE CONN WATCH THE BEGINNING OF THE SLAUGHTER ..

CONN I CAN NO LONGER SEE THROUGH THE RAIN, HAS THE KING BROKEN THEIR CHARGE ?

I CANNOT TELL EITHER, MOTHER IT IS AS IF THE HEAVENS HAD UNLEASHED THE FURY ALL AT ONCE

CONN LOOK-- THE BANKS OF THE KHORDAH ARE BEGINNING TO SWELL.

AYE IF THE RAIN CONTINUES, LIKE THIS IT COULD WASH AWAY THE KING'S CAMP IF ONLY WE COULD SEE

LOOK, MOTHER, *THERE!* THEY'VE BROKEN THE NEMEDIAN CHARGE!

FALL BACK TO THE BREASTWORKS!

THOUGHT THE RAIN WOULD NEVER STOP MY KING. LOOK, WE MADE THE NEMEDIANS PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR THEIR BOLDNESS.

LOOK, MY LIEGE! THE KHOROTAS IS RISING SOON THERE WILL ONLY BE A NARROW STRIP OF GROUND BETWEEN THE RIVER BANK AND OUR BREASTWORKS.

AYE. THE STORM WAS BOTH A BLESSING AND A CURSE.

KING CONAN

ZELATA

MY LIEGE, A KING SHOULD NOT GO INTO BATTLE WITHOUT A KEEN EDGE ON HIS BLADE. LET ME DO IT FOR YOU.

FOR I WOULD BE PROUD TO SERVE ANY BROTHER IN ARMS, AQUILONIAN OR BARBARIAN, COMMONER OR KING.

THEN PUT AN EDGE ON IT YOU SHALL, BLACKSMITH. IT COULD BE THAT IT WILL HELP ME CUT MY WAY THROUGH THE DARKNESS

WHAT NEWS, DERYCK?

THERE IS A PATH ALONG THE BANK OF THE RIVER THAT THE ENEMY HAS LEFT UNDEFENDED, KING CONAN

"I'LL ATTACK AND FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE DARKNESS. . ."

RUFIO!

[illegible] ALL OF THEM!

THE ENEMY MUST THINK THAT WE ENTRE[illegible] TONIGHT WHILE WE MAKE USE OF THE [illegible] TO FLANK THEM

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

ASURAN, LET'S NOT PROFANE[illegible]

IN THE MORNING MAKE OUR BATTLE CRY "VICTORY OR DEATH"!.

AND PUT YOUR FAITH IN [illegible] STEEL!

YOUR [illegible] MY KING

IT'S TIME WE MAKE AN END TO THE [illegible] FRANK RANTHEL!

LET S INVENT SOME NEW FORM OF TORTURE TO MAKE HIM DIE SLOWLY AND IN AGONY, FOR I KNOW OF NO DEATH THAT COULD BE AS CRUEL AS THE ONE HE DESERVES.

MY FATHER ALWAYS LIKED TO BOIL HIS ENEMIES ALIVE IN OIL, BUT I LIKE FLAYING ALIVE MYSELF.

HE'S BLUFFING, XANTAUS. LET'S PUT AN END TO HIM NOW WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE.

NAY LEORA WE MAY YET HAVE USE FOR THIS STYGIAN SO WE WILL KEEP HIM UNDER CLOSE GUARD UNTIL AFTER WE'VE DEALT WITH CONAN.

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO RECONSIDER. I HOLD YET ANOTHER PAWN ONE I WILL REVEAL WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.

LISTEN TO CONAN'S HOST NOT ALL OF THEIR SINGING OR THEIR BLACKSMITH'S POUNDING CAN SAVE THEM FROM THEIR FATE TOMORROW.

AT THE GATES OF TARANTIA, JUST BEFORE DAWN, PRINCE CONN LEADS THE CITY GARRISON OUT TO MEET THE ENEMY

REMEMBER, MY SON YOU ARE IN COMMAND.

[illegible] COMMAND W SELF AND WELL MOTHER

IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO GIVE YOUR HORSE.

A COMMANDER NEEDS A HORSE AND MINE WAS ONE OF THE FEW LEFT IN THE CITY AFTER THE FAMINE.

THEN IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE KING.

[illegible] THE FIELD OF BATTLE

ALONG THE BANK OF AMOROTAS

THE ENEMY HAS NOT EVEN SUSPECTED OUR MANEUVER LET ALONE DETECTED IT.

THEN WE HAVE ONLY TO JOIN UP WITH CONN AND FORM A SECOND FRONT WHILE PROSPERO HOLDS OUR ORIGINAL LINES AND MEETS THE ENEMY'S FRONTAL ASSAULT.

NOW WE NEED ONLY WAIT FOR CONN'S SIGNAL.

THERE-- THREE FLAMING ARROWS. HE IS MOVING OUT OF THE CITY.

GO AND LEAD THE PRINCE TO OUR FLANK.

THERE-- THERE'S THE PRINCE WITH THE CITY GARRISON.

WE ARE READY AS WE WILL EVER BE TO FACE THE MORROW. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME WILL BE, CROM ALONE KNOWS AND HE'S NOT TELLING.

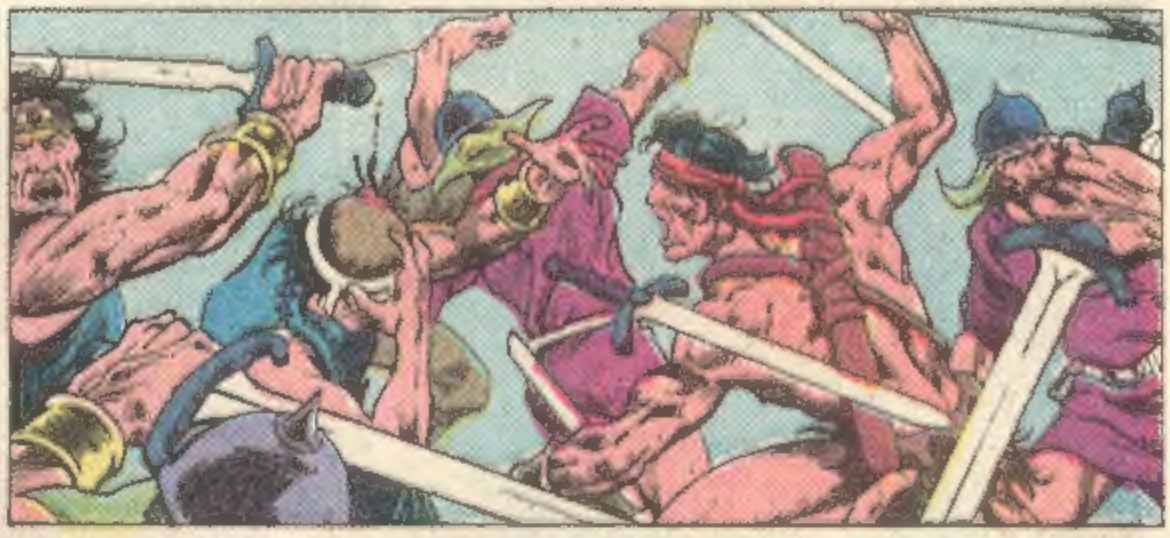
CONTINUED IN #34-- HARVEST OF DEATH

KING CONAN

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

LARRY HAMA
EDITOR
PAT REDDING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!



Dear Larry,

CONAN THE KING is such a refreshing change of pace from the other Conan books. That's not to say the others are at all lacking; quite to the contrary—I follow all of them faithfully. It's just that CTK provides a unique opportunity to sides to Conan's character, in dealing with situations not possible in the other books. Where else can you see Conan experiencing the joys and sorrows of fatherhood and marriage? Not to mention that CTK makes liars out of all those critics that contend that Conan is just a big, dumb muscleman, because in these pages he is constantly confronted with problems that require careful, considered thought. One has to have more than their share of brains to keep up with foreign diplomacy and court intrigue the way Conan does. And he's a good king to boot! Long may he reign!

Robert McDonald
1121 Laurel Place
Manchester, NH

Dear Conanophiles,

Regarding CONAN THE KING: I have just five words for you:

MONTHLY!
MONTHLY!
MONTHLY!
MONTHLY!
MONTHLY!

Jeff Albright
Buffalo, NY

Dear Marvel,

I know this is a strange thing to write to CONAN THE KING about, but whatever happened to that other Robert E. Howard monarch of yours, KING KULL? We really miss him.

MORE KULL!! We want KING KULL!!

Dave and Steve Bradley
Baltimore, MD

Well guys, we're sure you'll be thrilled to know that Kull will soon be back in new stories of his very own in the pages of our black and white companion magazine, THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN!!

Dear Marvel,

I loved issue #31. The feeling those Cimmerians and Asgardians gave me at the end while brandishing their swords in honor of Conan was awesome. It reminded me of the end of #29, when the Aquilonian Army was saluting. That, to me, was the greatest issue ever.

As much as I love Marvel, though, I have to carp about some things. Most important, your habit of leaving things unfinished. As in: 1) the attackers of Conn's party in issue 20: Conan hasn't gotten them yet, like he promised; 2) Taurus and that witch; 3) Baron Maloric the traitor and his wizard (Thoth-Amon?); 4) Baron Aemilius—let the guy prove his innocence (maybe during the war); 5) that scum, Lysander; 6) Conn's wife, Kang Sho, and Kang Lou-Dze; 7) the little Stygian boy and (I'm sure it is, now) Thoth-Amon.

With all that, I'm sure you can make a huge Dynamic Double-Sized Issue, Huh? Huh?

Other than those little things there is nothing at all wrong with CTK. I can't wait for the battle for Tarantia. I hope Conan and Xantaus have a good, long, see-sawing fight, maybe ending with unarmed combat; wouldn't that be neat?

Well, I love Marvel, and I love CONAN THE KING, so until next time, 'nuff said. Oh, wait, spoke too soon. Please don't spare Leora. If you don't kill her, have her get dragged off by some smelly Cimmerian lout to serve him for the rest of her days (wouldn't that be living h*** for the wench, Ha!). Oh yeah, one last thing—I love your weird covers!

Joe Trethewey
Romeo, Mich.

Dear Marvel Masters of the Sword,

May I say that I think you're doing a fine job in crafting this tale of a Hyborian-age World War. From the terrible battles to the single combats, and from the interplay of politics and religion down to the inter-personal relationships.

This recent storyline has been at least equal to anything Howard himself ever did, and that is coming from one of his biggest fans.

One point though. Conan orders his troops to wipe out the captured Picts, but then feels remorse over the slaying of just one man in the very next issue. I'm not trying to judge the Barbarian King by modern standards, but this does seem a bit inconsistent. Mayhap it was because of Conan's hatred of the Picts and his respect for Rolf's warrior skills. Who knows? Hopefully, it will be explained during the course of the story.

As I said before, great job. Keep your swords ever sharp and ready for battle!

Kevin Connely
(no address given)

Dear Conan Disciples,

After reading several issues of CONAN THE KING, I must say that I am very impressed by the great art.

For example, in issue 29, a great scene in which Conan, in full armor, is being saluted by his troops. Issue 30, which opens with the destruction of all the Black Dragons. Now this was the best battle-scene I have ever laid my eyes on; Crom, it was superb. And there was the beheading of Shooz Dinj—the fear of his coming death dripped off of his face and the pages. Great art, for which we must thank the artists.

About the story until now; the return of the Heart of Ahriman (read again Howard's novel "The Hour of the Dragon"). That means that we can expect magical fireworks in the following issues.

One idea: Why don't you make a Conan Calendar of the cover drawings? The drawings are simply terrific, beautiful.

CONAN THE KING is one of the best series in comic history, so keep on, continue the good work.

Oh, and when does Thoth-Amon face Cona again, after his rebirth in issue 27? I am dying to know what then will happen.

Hoping to write to you again, I salute you all.

René Hursepuny
Waltatinstraat 3, Oostgaarde
2905 St. Capelle Aan Den Yssel
The Netherlands

Dear Larry,

I really have to give you (and Marvel) credit for putting together such consistently well-crafted book as CONAN THE KING. You always seem to somehow put together just the right balance of drama, action and mystery to make each issue a gem.

One request: Make more use of Prince Conn! The opportunities for contrast between him and his father are limitless. It's the perfect device with which you can demonstrate the evolution of Conan's character over the years. Conan can see in his son the hot-blooded, quick-tempered young man he once was, and perhaps Con will catch a glimpse of the cunning, seasoned warrior he will someday be (assuming, that is, that he lives that long!). Of course, as alike as they are, there are also differences. Conn is a prince of a royal family, raised with all the respect and deference that comes with it (not to mention the standard of living), while his father grew up a homeless wanderer, living by his wits and often surviving by the skin of his teeth. All of this is also fertile material for contrast between father and son. Of course, I'm sure that you've thought of all this (comics aren't as good as CTK by accident), but thanks for letting me get my two cent's worth in.

Oh, yeah—keep those fantastic covers coming!!

Walter Stone
1701 Pike Lane
Waltham, MA

BULLPEN BULLETINS

Heh! Heh! Heh! I'll bet you expected to find Jim Shooter here at his usual spot on the *Bullpen Bulletins* page. Well, you're out of luck! Big Jim couldn't make it this month. He's out of the office. In fact, he isn't even in the country anymore. Consider him history!

The big guy (known as the *Polish Prince* by his close friends) was last seen packing his bags, and heading for the airport. His first stop is Germany, where he'll be attending the world-famous *Frankfurt Book Fair*, and spreading the wondrous word of merry **Marvel** to some of the most prestigious book and magazine publishers in the entire known universe. From there, Jim will be jetting to merry ol' England where he'll be stopping by to visit our British counterparts at **Marvel U.K.** (He'll also be spending a few days consulting with the producer of the upcoming *Captain America* motion picture—but, I think that's supposed to be a secret so I'd better not mention it.) After that, our globe-trotting editor in chief heads to Paris, France where he'll be delivering a few lectures on the art, craft and editorial vision that goes into making every one of our mighty **Marvel** masterpieces. (By the way, Jim confided in me that he's also going to try to sneak in a day or two of sightseeing during this month-long European sojourn. After all, the guy deserves a rest after having just completed the scripting chores on the best-selling comic book limited series of all time . . . **SECRET WARS II**!!)

And, now, comes the most exciting news of this column . . . while the Prince is gone, I am in charge of **Marvel Comics**. (Talk about a dream come true!) ME!! Ye ever-faithful executive editor Tom DeFalco!! (Cue the canned applause!)

I control the CAPITAL LETTERS! **The bold words!** *The italics!* (Ah, total power is so intoxicating!)

But, after my many years of association with a certain wondrous wall-crawler, I've learned one important truth . . . with great power, there must come great responsibility.

Or, I guess one could always opt for chaos . . .

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: The color yellow

From henceforth, the color yellow is banned from all of our books. It makes our heroes look too cowardly!!

With respect from the top,
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: Letter columns

James Shooter (the guy who used to be in charge) often said that our letter columns were important because they gave us a chance to learn what the readers really thought of our comics. Effective immediately, letter columns will now be placed at the start of each book, and run ten pages in length. Story pages will decrease accordingly.

It's great at the top!
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: Covers

It's time for Marvel to blaze new trails in regards to comic book covers. From now on, our covers will be printed INSIDE THE BOOKS! Make the readers wait for them!!

Dr. Doom was right!!
Tom D.

Hey, this is fun! I can't wait until Big Jim returns to see the changes I've made. I'm sure he'll be pleased . . .

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #33**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #228**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #37**—It's the New Mutants vs. the Beyonder to the death in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #12**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #6**
- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #5**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #33**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274**—The Puma lurks within this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #32**—Welcome the new Vindicator!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #315**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #20**—Guest-starring the New Mutants!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #18**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #34**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #42**—The end of an era!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #1**—Direct from hit Saturday morning TV show, "Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends," and into her own comic! Guest starring the New Mutants and the X-Men!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #4**—History was made in issues #46–65! Read all about it!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Featuring everyone from Doctor Strange to Gee!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #317**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #265**—Don't you know we're on the "Eve of Destruction" in this *Secret Wars* cross-over?
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #180**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #185**
- ☐ **X-MEN #203**—It's a battle to the death with the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #122**
- ☐ **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #45**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #6—Betrayal!**
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **BALDER THE BRAVE (Limited Series) #3**—Special tie-in with the *Mighty Thor!*
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #4**—Uncanny mutant issue!
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #1**—That popular West Coast Avenger finally stars in his own *double-sized* adventure!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #204**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #288**—It's real! Doctor Doom appears in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #112**—The Black Cat is back!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #104**
- ☐ **THOR #365**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #2**—The Beast is kidnapped!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #14**
- ☐ **SECTAURS #5**
- ☐ **SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #9**—Cataclysmic double-sized final issue, featuring virtually everyone in the Marvel Universe in the wildest battle you'll ever see!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #18**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #36**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #25**—Featuring "Weirdworld" and a Dave Sim Portfolio!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #121**
- ☐ **SAVAGE TALES #3**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #5**—Welcome aboard new regular penciler GEOF ISHERWOOD!
- ☐ **MOONSHADOW #6**—Eye-popping artwork supplied this issue by *Epic* illustrator KENT WILLIAMS!
- ☐ **STARSTRUCK (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **THE ONE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #13**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #8**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #2**—Found: a gateway to another dimension!
- ☐ **COYOTE #16**—The Djinn and Scorpio Rose join Coyote in his last adventure!
- ☐ **TIMESPIRITS #8**—Could this be . . . the end?
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #34**—The final issue, featuring TERRY AUSTIN, JOHN BYRNE, ARCHIE GOODWIN, ALAN MOORE, SANDY PLUNKETT, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, ART SUYDAM, AL WILLIAMSON, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH and BERNI WRIGHTSON, among others!

STAR COMICS

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #12**—A happy surprise for Vermin the Vile!
- ☐ **PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #6**
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #12**
- ☐ **EWOKS #6**—Wicket finds himself in a cosmic battle against the Ice Demon!
- ☐ **ROYAL ROY #6**—What is the secret power of Cashelot?
- ☐ **MUPPET BABIES #6**—Scooter rules the world!
- ☐ **GETALONG GANG #6**—Watch out! There's a stranger in Green Meadow!
- ☐ **CARE BEARS #3**—Featuring "Blue Who!"

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **GN #20: GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE**—Why is New York called "Fun City?" Because you can wander through Chinatown, eat a bagel, and meet vampires! Get in on the fun with J.M. DeMATTEIS (writer) and MARK BADGER (artist)!